

Executive Proclamation

State of South Dakota

Office of the Governor

Whereas, Thirteen years ago, this month, the enactment of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) signaled a transformation in our nation's public policies toward people with disabilities, and America is now a dramatically different and better country; and,

Whereas, In the last 13 years, we have worked hard to eliminate harmful stereotypes, and have grown to understand and accept disability as a natural part of the human experience; and,

Whereas, We are taking steps, such as renovating and constructing public accommodations to make them fully accessible, to ensure that people with disabilities are fully integrated into our communities and workplaces; and,

Whereas, We have come to appreciate that people with disabilities are a key element and an untapped resource in our communities; and,

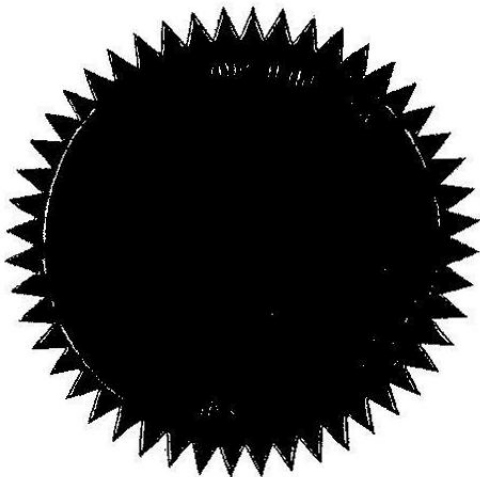
Whereas, The year 2003 is the 13th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act:

Now, Therefore, I, M. Michael Rounds, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim July 26, 2003, as

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT DAY

in South Dakota, and I call to action individuals, agencies, service and advocacy organizations within our communities to organize activities, programs, and resources during this day and the coming year to promote full inclusion of people with disabilities, and I encourage all citizens to work together and alongside others across our state and nation to promote equality of opportunity, full participation, independent living, and economic self-sufficiency for all people.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Fourteenth Day of July in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Three.



M. Michael Rounds

M. Michael Rounds, Governor

Attest:

Chris Nelson

Chris Nelson, Secretary of State